

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9990
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AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6603

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM AMBASSADOR WELLS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECOSOC, UN, EGEN, SHUM, BR, PFOR
SUBJ: MEETING WITH BRAZILAIN EX-CONGRESSMAN

1. I MET WITH LYANEAS DIAS MACIEL, FORMER BRAZILIAN (MDB)
CONGRESSMAN, AFTERNOON OF JULY 26 AND EXPLAINED THAT BECAUSE
OF YOUR SCHEDULE YOU HAD BEEN UNABLE TO MEET WITH HIM.

2. AT THE OUTSET OF THE MEETING MACIEL NOTED THAT THERE WERE
23 MDB CONGRESSMEN CURRENTLY IN EUROPE WHO HAD BRIEFLY
PASSED THROUGH GENEVA. HE THEN EXPLAINED THAT CERTAIN SECTORS
OF THE BRAZILIAN PRESS (HE CITED MANCHETE SPECIFICALLY)
WERE ATTEMPTING TO "ATTACH" HIM TO PRESIDENT CARTER, SAYING
THAT THEY WERE EXCHANGING LETTERS. MACIEL SAW THIS AS AN
ATTEMPT TO "MINIMIZE" THE CARTER HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORT BY TRY-
ING TO SHOW THAT AN EX-CONGRESSMAN COULD INFLUENCE THE
PRESIDENT. FOR THE FIRST TIME, BECAUSE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN, OPPOSITION BRAZILAIN CONGREESMEN AS WELL AS
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STUDENTS WERE SUPPORTING US INITIATIVES. HE SAID THAT "SMALL
MEASURES" ON THE PART OF THE US COULD "CHANGE THE WHOLE
POCTURE" AND THAT THE MOOD IN LATIN AMERICA HAS CHANGED
AND WILL REMAIN CHANGED IF CARTER CAN FOLLOW-UP ON WHAT HE
SAID DURING HIS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

3. MACIEL CONTINUED THAT THIS WAS AN "EXTRADORINARY" MOMENT

FOR THE US; THE BRAZILIAN LEFT NOW MENTIONS PRESIDENT CARTER FAVORABLY WHEREAS BEFORE IT ATTACKED US FOREIGN POLICY FOR SUPPORTING THOSE IN POWER. MACIEL THEN SAID THE COMMUNIST PARTY WAS THE ONLY "ORGANIZED" OPPOSITION PARTY IN BRAZIL AND ALTHOUGH IT WAS WEAK IT HAD THE NECESSARY STRUCTURES "TO HOLD A GOVERNMENT" WHEN THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT "FRAC- TURES." HE REITERATED THAT THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN BRAZIL NEED US RECOGNITION AND HE HOPED FOR CONTACTS BETWEEN DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN BOTH COUNTRIES. MACIEL SAID THAT IMPORTANT HUMAN RIGHTS FIGURES IN BRAZIL WERE UNDER TRE- MENDOUS PRESSURE -- NAMING CARDINAL ARNS FOR ONE. HE SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THESE PEOPLE WERE INVITED TO THE US BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

4. I ASKED MACIEL WHAT THE US COULD DO TO PROMOTE CHANGE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD IN BRAZIL. WAS IT SUFFICIENT TO RECOGNIZE IMPORTANT HUMAN RIGHTS FIGURES? OR SHOULD WE ALSO PERHAPS REACH OUT FOR MEMBERS OF ARENA ITSELF WHO HAD FAVORED PRESIDENT GEISEL'S EARLIER HOPES FOR "DISTENCAO"? MACIEL HAD BROUGHT WITH HIM A THREE-PAGE ESSAY ON THE "NEW AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY AND ITS IMPACT ON THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT IN BRAZIL" (FOURNISHED TO ARA, USUN, BRASILIA). AFTER READING IT, I ASKED ABOUT A SUGGESTION IN IT THAT A TRIP BE ORGANIZED FOR BRAZILIAN CONGRESSMEN TO COME TO THE US TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS. WHEREAS MACIEL WAS SUGGESTING A TRIP FOR MDB CONGRESSMEN ONLY, I CONFIDENTIAL

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ASKED HIS OPINION ON A MIXED BRAZILIAN CONGRESSIONAL GROUP, ONE INCLUDING CAREFULLY SELECTED ARENA MEMBERS, MACIEL AGREED THIS WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA AND COMMENTED THAT A WAY HAS TO BE FOUND FOR PRESIDENT GEISEL TO GET OUT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION. WHEN I ASKED FOR SPECIFIC NAMES, MACIEL REPLIED THAT ARENA PEOPLE COULD INCLUDE SENATOR ANTONIO VILLELA, CONGRESSMEN PAULO CICERO, AND CONGRESSMAN ANTONIO MARIZ. THE MDB PEOPLE SHOULD BE CONGRESSMAN AIRTON SOARES, DEPUTY CONGRESSMAN JARVARAS VASCONCELOS SENATOR PAULO BROSSARD, DEPUTY CONGRESSMAN FERNANDO LIRA, AND DEPUTY CONGRESSMAN GADER BARBALHO. HE THOUGHT THE IDEAL NUMBER FOR THE GROUP WOULD BE EIGHT OR TEN.

5. ALL THE FOREGOING WAS SIMPLY EXPLORING AN IDEA THAT MACIEL HAD RAISED IN HIS PAPER. THERE WERE CLEARLY NO COMMITMENTS TO PURSUE THE IDEA FURTHER.

6. MACIEL TOOK SPECIAL NOTE OF BRADY TYSON'S SPEECH BEFORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND PRODUCED NUMEROUS CLIPPINGS FROM EUROPEAN NEWSPAPERS WHICH TERMED THE SPEECH "VERY IMPORTANT." HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF POSITION TAKEN BY THE US BEFORE THE COMMISSION THE USSR FOUND ITSELF FORCED TO

VOTE WITH CHILE ON THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (ADDING
LATER THAT THIS MADDENED THE CUBANS). MACIEL AND I TALKED
NEARLY AN HOUR. WE COVERED MANY TOPICS IN A VERY RELAXED
MOOD.VANDEN HEUVEL

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